

VZCZCXRO9817
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHBK #1899 0891018
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 301018Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5969
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4024
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6984
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 2968
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHFJSCC/COMMARFORPAC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 001899

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PACOM FOR FPA HUSO
NSC FOR MORROW

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/29/2016
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [TH](#)
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMS ELECTION TIMETABLE

Classified By: Political Counselor Susan M. Sutton, reason 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (U) Prime Minister Surayud yesterday reaffirmed the government's commitment to hold elections before the end of the year. He told the press on March 29 that the cabinet had agreed the elections should be held on December 16 or 23, with the referendum on the constitution in September.

¶2. (C) Comment: Surayud's statement reiterates the commitments already made by the government and Council for National Security to hold the elections in 2007. In the absence of a permanent constitution and an election law, no one actually has the legal authority to set an election date. Surayud's announcement is presumably intended as a reassuring signal to the public that the interim government stands by its pledge to return power to civilian government this year. It is consistent with what we have also heard privately, that the PM wants to hold the elections by December, if not before. However, it will probably be several months before the legal structures are in place to legally set an official election date.

ARVIZU